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Dr. Nelson
Mr. [unclear]
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Prof. Robinson: It appears from that copy
constituting the Forest Service should submit any
item for publication touching our work for our
suggestions & OK? This is my frequently not done
FTN

February 28, 1927.

**GAME ANIMALS KILLED IN FOREST
EVEN BY SLOW GROUND FIRES**

~~Like the exile who brought about his undoing by~~

yielding to the desire to return once more to his old home, the instinct of wild game to drift back to their range following a forest fire often leads to their destruction, according to evidence gathered by foresters of the United States Department of Agriculture.

While a forest fire, unless it is "crowning," or traveling in the tree tops, ordinarily does not travel fast enough to overtake the fleeing game birds and animals, the homing instinct is said to bring them back to their haunts frequently before a fire has subsided.

Commenting on the destruction of wild life by forest fires, J. W. Humphrey of the Forest Service, describes some of his observations during the ~~last Johnny Creek fire in the Flathead National Forest in Montana last summer.~~

This fire occurred in a mixed stand of spruce, fir, larch and white pine.

"The fire while at its height," Mr. Humphrey says, "did not travel faster than two miles an hour. This being the case, it would seem unlikely that deer or game birds would be overtaken by the flames. Pine squirrels and other animals, however, were all destroyed in the path of the fire. Along the edge of the fire, where we were trenching, we saw a number of pine squirrels that apparently had their feet so badly burned they could not climb trees.

"I found two whitetail deer on the creek below the fire fighters' camp that were burned to a crisp. Two others--one a large buck and the other a yearling--died near the Riverside pasture gate. Another old buck, with the hair over his hind quarters badly singed, and his feet so badly burned that he could hardly walk, was seen by the entire crew a number of times between Riverside and Murray Creek. I also saw a fawn in the vicinity of Spring Meadows that had evidently lost its mother. The feet of this fawn had been badly burned. However, it appeared as if it would recover. We found a great many grouse that had died from the effects of the fire.

"This fire did not travel fast enough to overtake either the game or the birds. It is my opinion that both, after the fire had quieted down, drifted back to their old range through the smoldering ashes. After getting in where the ashes were extremely hot, and burning their feet, they had become bewildered, and probably had run on until so badly burned that, even though they got out of the fire, they later died. Both deer and grouse appeared very reluctant to move away from their home range and returned before the ground had had time to cool. Nearly every day we would see deer wandering through the burn, especially on the meadows, even though the forage was practically all destroyed."

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